

THANK YOU...



October  
2017

# The News

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# THANK YOU...

## OCTOBER IS THE MONTH FOR US TO SAY "THANK YOU" TO YOU, OUR PARTNERS IN GOD'S MISSION AND MINISTRY

FPCA wants to extend our gratitude to all of those members, friends, and family who have contributed to make First Presbyterian one of the best churches in Arlington! Without your amazing commitment to Jesus Christ, to his kingdom work, and to his body, the Church, we would not be able to do the mission and ministry to which the Lord has called us. Our new mission statement summarizes what we are about: ***"FPCA is transforming life by glorifying God, following Jesus, and loving our neighbor."*** Because of you, we are able to touch the lives of children, youth, young adults, early marrieds, middle adults, mature adults, and neighbors in need. Your presence, your spiritual gifts, your generosity, your time, and your talent are all parts of what makes our church a significant part of the Lord's kingdom work in Arlington.



As we prepare for a new season of growing in our stewardship of time, talent, and resources, we especially want to thank our **volunteers** in the church, whom we also call "Ministry Partners."

Think of all that our volunteers do: choir members singing and leading and playing; members planning and serving on mission endeavors; elders serving on session and on ministry teams; deacons serving on the deacon board in Hospitality, Fellowship, and Congregational Care; ushers, greeters, money counters, teachers, dinner servers, building and grounds cleaners and renewers; receptionists and front desk phone answerers; helpers with children's ministry, helpers with youth ministry, helpers with adult and older adult ministries; members serving on Facilities, Worship, Discipleship, Mission and Evangelism, and Administration teams; the list could go on and on. Thank you, thank you, thank you!! Your commitment to the Lord and to this mission is deeply appreciated.



## October Sermon Series: "The Five Solas: Watchwords of the Reformation"

In this year of the 500th anniversary of what many consider to be the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, we wanted to review five vital theological ideas that emerged from that important period of history. On October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk, posted his *Ninety-Five Theses Against Indulgences* on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, he hoped and believed it would stir considerable debate in the Roman Catholic Church of which he was, along with virtually all Western Christians, a part. Little did he know that this modest but courageous act would soon precipitate a movement that would spawn a few, and eventually hundreds, of new Christian traditions broadly referred to as the Protestant Reformation. This movement had cultural, political, psychological, and sociological dimensions to it, but the foundation of it was theological, and Luther was its first spokesperson.

John Calvin, the founder of our Reformed/Presbyterian tradition, was only 8 years old when Luther posted his *Ninety-Five Theses*, but was converted to the basic concepts and ideas of the movement in his early twenties, about 14 years later. Calvin became the most important Protestant figure in its second generation, and wrote his first edition of *The Institutes of the Christian Religion* when he was just 26 years of age. Calvin deepened the theological conversation around these "watchwords of the Reformation" that we will be preaching on for five weeks, as we approach this important anniversary.

The Latin word *sola* means "alone" or "only" in English. The "five solas" articulate five basic beliefs of the Protestant Reformation, pillars that the early Reformers believed to be essentials of Christian life and practice. Join us for this informative sermon series!

- October 1      *Solus Christus* - In Christ Alone  
Acts 4:1-12, Colossians 1:15-20
- October 8      *Sola Gratia* - By Grace Alone  
John 1:14-18, Ephesians 2:1-10
- October 15     *Sola Fide* - Through Faith Alone  
Matthew 8:5-13, Romans 1:16-17
- October 22     *Sola Scriptura* - By Scripture Alone  
Matthew 4:1-11, 2 Timothy 3:10-17
- October 29     *Soli Deo Gloria* - To the Glory of God Alone  
Matthew 5:11-16, 1 Cor. 10:23-11:1



## New Venture!

Our summer book study on Mike and Sally Breen's book *Family on Mission: Integrating Discipleship into the Fabric of our Everyday Lives* was a great success. Over 40 church and staff members completed the study and shared a family meal here at church after worship. One key principle for missional communities is that everybody plays! For the adults, that means everyone brought something to eat. For the kids, that meant they ran around and played! Also, everyone old enough to talk shared one thing they were thankful for. Some answers included a new pair of glasses, new friendships, and a great start to the school year.

Looking forward, some of us will move forward with forming a pilot missional community. Here, we will heavily invest in these leaders, equip and coach them, and prepare them to launch missional communities next fall.

Someone wrote me a brief note at the conclusion of our class and I obtained their permission to share it anonymously. I want you to read it as well to share how exciting this is for our church.

*Dear Chris,*

*Thank you for leading us in the study of mission. I have been concerned that First Pres was becoming an "old congregation." The attendance of younger adults was very encouraging. It gave me a "new vision" for the church. I am very impressed with our younger members!!*

*It was refreshing to be around this group. Keep up the good work! You and Rich were placed here for a reason – called by God.*

Keep us and our pilot missional community in your prayers as we seek to serve God and participate in growing his kingdom.

Live Forever,

Pastor Chris

## Walk to End Alzheimer's

Arlington's Walk to End Alzheimer's is right around the corner. FPCA is registered and Homer Reynolds is the team captain.

- **Saturday, October 7**
- **UTA Maverick Activities Center (500 W. Nedderman)**
- **Check-in 7:30 a.m.**
- **Ceremony 9:00 a.m.**
- **Walk 9:30 a.m.**



Register at [alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk) OR [alz.org/northcentraltexas](http://alz.org/northcentraltexas) or call 800-272-3900.

Come join us as we Walk to End Alzheimer's—a disease that cannot be prevented, cured, or even slowed. But what if one day it could? By walking together, we can help make that day happen.

Join us for breakfast/lunch following the walk at the Division Street Diner.

Questions? Call Homer or Joan at 817-239-7240.

## Music Ministry

Interested in leading worship through music?  
Join the Chancel Choir,  
Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble,  
Agape Youth Choir, or Children's Music Ministries!

Contact Russell Farnell for information:  
817-274-8286 or  
[russell@firstprestexas.org](mailto:russell@firstprestexas.org)

- Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.
- Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m.
- Agape Youth Choir will be inviting Carter Jr. High choir students to the YouthCUE choir festival in February.
- Children's Music Ministries meet from 12:45 to 1:45 on Sundays, with a lunch for the kids after the 11:00 service for people who are interested. Your child is eligible for Children's Music Ministries if they are 4 years old at the start of the school year.



Thank you for your generous support of the music ministry at FPCA. Your faithfulness in giving has enabled our congregation to minister through music with ensembles and events that glorify God as well as proclaim and teach the gospel. Your giving of time and talents enables our usher and greeter teams.

Your giving supports worship events like the Advent Festival, Christmas Eve services, Holy Week and Easter services; ensembles such as the Chancel Choir, Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble, and the African Praise Choir in our services; Children's Music Ministries; the Agape Youth Choir taking Carter Jr. High students to the YouthCUE choir festival in Waco, and the Internship in Church Music Ministry for college students.

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. Colossians 3:16*

Russell

## Children's Ministries

## THANK YOU...



Thank you for your support of children's ministries. I'm not really sure where to begin. As I have struggled with my health in 2017, I have become more and more thankful for my family of brothers and sisters in Christ at FPCA. Thank you to those of you who give financially to FPCA. Thank you to those of you who pray for the children of FPCA and their families. Thank you to those of you who volunteer in children's ministries. Thank you to those of you who give us encouragement in children's ministries. Thank you, FPCA family, for whatever part you play in children's ministries. As I fight back tears, I say thank you to God for you. This last year, we saw children make professions of faith. I think we gave out over 50 Bibles to children. We had Kids Beach Club at Blanton and Ellis Elementary. We had Kids Night Out, Vacation Bible School, Spring Festival and Trunk or Treat. We had Sunday school, KFC, and children's time. There is probably something that I am missing. Please forgive me for that. But please know that God used you to plant seeds, bring professions of faith, and help children grow in their relationship with Him. God used you to make a difference in the life of a child. He has also used you to encourage and support me and my family with your words of encouragement and prayers. So with tears in my eyes and a huge heart of thanks, I say thank you to God for my FPCA family.

### PRESCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL IN OCTOBER

We know things are going to happen in our preschoolers' lives where they will need God's help—times when their lives will zig one way and then zag another. We want them to grow up believing that God loves them and can help them anywhere, with anything, no matter how hard it may be. He can even help them help others!



This month, we'll learn about the life of David and how even when it zigged and zagged, God was there to help him. We will begin with David as a boy in a field with his sheep. David was alone in that field when he needed to protect his sheep. Actually, he wasn't really alone. God was with him. And, God helped him protect his sheep from the scary lion. Our preschoolers will learn: God can help me anywhere.

Once David had proved that he was brave and strong by protecting his sheep and defeating Goliath, King Saul asked him to lead his troops into battle. God was with David and helped him win battle after battle. Our preschoolers will learn: God can help me do anything.

In week three, preschoolers will hear about David's good friend, Jonathan. David and Jonathan shared so many experiences and were close friends. It was VERY hard when they had to say good-bye to one another. Our preschoolers will learn: God can help me do hard things.

David wants to keep his promise to his good friend, Jonathan, to always take care of his family. He has his servants search until they find Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth. The servants bring

Mephibosheth, who is lame in both feet, to David, and he provides all that Mephibosheth needs. David even invited Mephibosheth to eat at the king's table. Our preschoolers will learn: God can help me help others.

We will end the month learning how David praised God after He helped him. David danced and played music to show thanks to God for all His help. Our preschoolers will learn that we can praise God because He helps us.

We want our preschoolers to grow up knowing that God loves them and is always there to help them—even when they're in a Zig Zag Zone.

## ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL AND KFC IN OCTOBER

In Psalm 24:1, we read, *The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, (NIV)*. In other words, whatever we have isn't really ours. God created the entire world—the land and sea, planets and galaxies, animals and people. And when people create, those people do so because of the gift and talents that God gave them. It's our job to take care of what God has loaned us for a time to use in order to bring Him glory.

Jesus put stewardship into action. He used the time He had on earth wisely, never wasting a moment, but always working towards God's plan. He used what He had—from bread and fish, to dirt and spit—to perform miracles, helping people see and eat. Everything Jesus did showed us how we can take care of God's stuff by using it the way that points people to God and fulfills the mission God has for our lives.



## SAVE THE DATE

**October 1** Luncheon for families with children

**October 13** Kids Night Out from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

**October 27** Kids Night Out from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now... (Philippians 1:3-5, NIV)*

I remember the day like it was yesterday. He walked into the room with a smile from ear to ear, but still with a look of nervousness. The following thoughts ran through his mind:

- “Who are all of these adults and why do they want to hang out with me?”
- “I still have time to turn around and walk out.”
- “What if I don’t fit in?”
- “These adults will just forget about me after a while!”

You see these were my thoughts at the young age of 15 when I entered the youth room at Hillcrest Park Baptist Church for the first time. I smiled because after just moving to Arlington. I was excited to meet new kids my age and make new friends. But I was nervous at the same time because I wasn’t sure I would fit in and be accepted.

I believe these thoughts and the others mentioned above are typical for our youth in new settings and old. Our youth long to fit in and for people to love them. I’m glad to say that my youth group experience was a good one and people, including my youth pastor Mason, did a great job of loving me then and still love me until this today. My hope and prayer is that my youth leaders and I are doing the same for our youth today.

But the fact of the matter is that we are not able to do this work alone. My leaders and I are only able to do this because of the outpouring of support from our church family. I am beyond **THANKFUL** of the support our church family extended our way this year and in years past.

Philippians 1:3-5 is what I think about when I think of you; I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. You see, every time I remember you helped us with **over \$16,000** in personal gifts to go toward getting kids from our community to camp, I **THANK GOD FOR YOU!** When I remember the **12 additional kids** we were able to take to camp this year from last year, I **THANK GOD FOR YOU!** Lastly, when I remember the **6 kids** that gave their lives to Christ at camp this year, I **THANK GOD FOR YOU!** But please know that just like Philippians 1:3-5 says, we don’t only thank you, but we always **PRAY** with joy for you.

So, in closing please know that we thank you so much for all you do to help our youth ministry. Your financial support and prayers allow us to pour into the lives of our youth. We love you and want to leave you with this prayer;

*The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make His face shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,  
And give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26, ESV)*

Blessings in Christ,

Adrian Rodriguez



# Reformation Day Word Search Puzzle

X Y J H V M I L M A R T Y R X E E N C X  
 C K R E M R O F E R B U X A M T U Y I K  
 I D P W S R F H C R U H C Y O A R G L P  
 S I C R Z U X C I T E R E H N C O D O Q  
 Y P X A T S I T P A B A N A K I P N H I  
 Q B R Y L J L T N M E D N O C N E O T N  
 I J N O I V S L S P C A W X U U A I A D  
 N L O D T N I T B E Y L Z G D M D T C U  
 Q H I N E E Q N H I J I A M I M I I M L  
 Y I T Y I F S U I E B P Y R V O E D T G  
 N M A Y W W E T I S S L R E I C T A H E  
 O F V L M X H N A S T E E C S X O R E N  
 M E L F A I T H D N I F S A I E F T O C  
 I I A K E T A B E D T T C N O N W M L E  
 S L S I F G E R M A N Y I T N K O T O S  
 P E D O C T R I N E K I I O N O R S G M  
 H B S W I T T E N B E R G E N K M E Y Y  
 I H W P Z N O I T A M R O F E R S I F D  
 P R E D E S T I N A T I O N E W Q R U T  
 F O O H S R A U T H O R I T Y V E P Q O

ANABAPTIST  
 AUTHORITY  
 BELIEF  
 BIBLE  
 CALVINIST  
 CATHOLIC  
 CHURCH  
 CONDEMN  
 DEBATE  
 DEFEND  
 DIET OF WORMS  
 DIVISION

DOCTRINE  
 EUROPE  
 EXCOMMUNICATE  
 FAITH  
 GERMANY  
 HERETIC  
 INDULGENCES  
 INQUISITION  
 JESUITS  
 MARTYR  
 MONK  
 PREDESTINATION

PRIEST  
 PROTESTANT  
 RECANT  
 REFORMATION  
 REFORMER  
 SALVATION  
 SIMONY  
 THEOLOGY  
 THESES  
 TRADITION  
 WITTENBERG

Answer on page 10



## Trunk or Treat

Save the date – **October 28, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** This is always a treat for children and adults alike!



Trunk or Treat is an outreach project to encourage our local community and families to get to know FPCA. This church-wide activity provides a safe place for children and families to participate in a special shared activity. Volunteers are needed to: decorate car trunks and pass out treats to children; donate candy; paint faces of children; assist in monitoring activities and games; and serve hot dogs and lemonade.

Please let Sheri Quick (817-451-8586 or [sheriq@aol.com](mailto:sheriq@aol.com)) or Lou Arnold (817-792-3914 or [LLouaa@att.net](mailto:LLouaa@att.net)) know if you can help. Candy can be donated outside Kyle’s office or near office entrance.

## Legacy Grandparenting Summit

- **When: Thursday through Saturday, November 2 through 4, 2017**
- **Where: Lake Pointe Church, Rockwall**

The Legacy Grandparenting Summit is a national conference for today’s Christian grandparents who want to be inspired and equipped to pass their faith on to their grandchildren. Early-bird and group discounts are available.

We are taking a group to the Grandparenting Summit. If you’re interested, contact the church office or Pastor Rich at 817-274-8286. Check out the website at: [summit.legacycoalition.com](http://summit.legacycoalition.com).

-	-	J	-	-	-	-	-	M	A	R	T	Y	R	-	E	E	-	C	-
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# This Month



## BIBLE STUDIES

### Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study group meets every Wednesday morning at 7:00 a.m. in the parlor. The current study is the book of Deuteronomy. Men of all ages meet and enjoy great fellowship and a prayer session. All men are invited to join this study.

### Women's Bible Study

The Women's Monday Night Bible study is open to all women. The next meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 16, in the parlor.

### Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Men and women of all ages are invited to meet in the Bride's Room every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m.

## MUSIC MINISTRIES



### Chancel Choir

This is the primary worship leadership ensemble for the 11:00 service. The choir also sings for special services around Christmas and Holy Week. It is more than just a great choir, it is a caring fellowship. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. *Nursery care is provided during rehearsals.*

### Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble

This intergenerational handbell group rehearses Wednesday evenings from 6:15 until 7:15 p.m. If you are interested in ringing, please contact Russell Farnell (fpcamusic@yahoo.com or 817-274-8286).

### Agape (Youth) Choir

During the school year, this group of youth in grades 6 to 12 meets on Sunday, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., in the choir room.

### Children's Music Ministries

The children's choirs meet from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. on Sundays during the school year. Children ages 4 (when school starts) through grade 5 participate in activities including music/singing and bells/chimes, instruments, and listening activities. There are two sections, divided by age, and both participate in the 11:00 worship service twice per year, usually in December and April.



## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

### Deacon Meeting

Thursday, October 12, at 6:00 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

### Team Meeting Night

Thursday, October 12, at 6:45 p.m., all teams meet for worship in the chapel with subsequent gathering into respective teams for ministry planning and coordination.

### Session Meeting

Thursday, October 26, at 7:00 p.m., the Session meets in the parlor to oversee the ministry of the church. The work of the Diaconate, church administration, and all Discipleship, Worship, Facility Management, and Mission and Evangelism ministries will be discussed.

## DISCIPLESHIP



### Library Team

The library team works the first Wednesday of each month, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Anyone interested is welcome. No particular skill is required, the work is easy, and we always have a good time as we process books to be added to our inventory. If you would like to be involved in library work but cannot come at that evening time, please contact Sandy Thomlinson and special daytime work sessions can be arranged.



## FELLOWSHIP

### Happy Quilters

This group meets Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. to quilt, sew, knit, crochet, embroider, and just enjoy being together. Bring your project and join in!

### Saints Alive!

Church seniors will meet for a potluck lunch on Thursday, October 19, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a casserole, salad, or dessert and enjoy a fun and interesting afternoon.

Contact Bev Koch (817-261-3202) for details.



**First Presbyterian Church  
1200 S. Collins Street  
Arlington, TX 76010**

**Deadline for the November issue of The News is October 15!**

## **Prayer Ministry**

**Prayers for those with health and other concerns:** Yvonne Babb, Elaine Bahn, David Boice, Debbie Boice, Shirley Bragg, James (Andrew) Bridges, Edna Collins, Lee Carol Copeland, Brad Davis, Laura Duffney, Tom and Bobbie Fowler, David Goff, Andrew Hydock, Tim Karnes, Bob Koch, Pat May, Allen Miller, J. Fred Miller, Barbara Mooers, Ruth Moore, Bill Olsen, Cosme Pacot, Jim L. Quick, Albert Ross, Kyle Terwilliger, Donna Vickers, Karl Winter, and Mary Jane Wright.

**Prayers for our family serving in the armed forces:** Ben Boughton, Riley Curnutt, Austin Curran, Eric Dill, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, Mike Mancini, Jack Murtha, Stephen O'Neil Sosa, Colin Peden, Jason Polk, Ryan Powell, Ryan Regalado, Christopher Young, and Robbie Wallace.

Pray for our homebound members.

Pray for those who do not know Christ!

Please contact Pastor Rich McDermott at the church office at 817-274-8286. For questions about specific concerns listed above, please contact Juanice Young at [juanicey@gmail.com](mailto:juanicey@gmail.com) or 817-794-5626.

